

THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE

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Entered at the postoffice in Williamsburg, Va., as second-class mail matter

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1913.

MERIT SHOULD BE THE REQUIREMENT.

A number of our Democratic exchanges have been calling the attention of the voters of Virginia to the past and present affiliations of certain gentlemen who are offering themselves as candidates for the several state offices, as if the "machine" or "anti-machine" label was all that was necessary. The "machine" adherents proclaim the merits of those who affiliate with that crowd and the "anti-machine" to the claims of their side, seeming to lose sight of the one essential in any candidate—ability and fitness for office.

Men who aspire to public office in Virginia or any state have a right to their party associates and favorites, but the public should only measure them for what they are, not by their associations and affiliations. In this district last fall, so-called machine men were as active for Mr. Montague as many of those who trained with the "anti-machine" crowd. We recall among his warmest supporters a number of men who were always active for the "machine" candidates, but we recall having heard very little of either side as a faction. Everybody seemed satisfied that Montague was the right man for the place and elected him solely on his merits. They were for him because he was a loyal Democrat of unimpeachable character and possessed of the elements that go to make a successful representative of the people. And that should be the only gauge.

Henry Stuart, who will be the next governor of Virginia, would have won over any other man in the state, not because he was a member of either of the old factions, but because he was the man for the place. The voters feel that he will be an honest, active, independent governor who will add lustre to the name of Virginia. They should select a man for lieutenant governor and attorney general on the same principle.

It is the hope of every loyal Democrat that hereafter merit shall be the only requisite for public office; that the Democratic party will put forward and elect to high office only those men who have the ability to fill them with the greatest honor to Virginia. That purpose carried out will kill any ring on earth and will prevent the formation of a new one. One ring is just as bad and just as dangerous as another. The state and the Democratic party want neither, nor will the Democratic party stand sponsor for any methods that tend to build up a ring at the expense of the people.

There is more at stake in the coming campaign than ring or anti-ring, and anti-ring incompetents are just as bad as ring incompetents. The anti-machine newspapers who fight a candidate just because he is a machine man are just as wrong as a voter who will support a candidate simply because he affiliates with the machine. Let us Democrats get together in future and elect men on their merits. The question of "machine" or "anti-machine" will settle itself.

OPPRESSION IN WEST VIRGINIA.

The unfortunate state of affairs that have prevailed in parts of our sister state, West Virginia, has become almost a national issue. The problem of capital and labor has been emphasized and the tension between them has been accentuated by the events that have occurred in that troublesome region. It is the world-old struggle of the weak against the strong, with the outcome never for a moment in doubt till the United States Senate, under the Kern resolution, took cognizance of the issue involved.

There is no doubt but that there were wrongs perpetrated by both sides, and that labor did reprehensible things. Being without military support, it was the under dog from the beginning. And the under dog in the case of a poor ignorant miner stands little show against military rule. The bayonet is a strong persuader, but it never settled any question right, and the American people are desirous of having its problems solved right, because that is the only way that they can be settled to stay settled.

There has been oppression in West Virginia, there has been crime committed under the guise of justice and right. The innocent has suffered and the guilty has gone unpunished. The hope is that the senate committee inquiry will get the real facts and expose the real culprits. If it succeed in doing that, its work shall have been well done.

The time has arrived when we may stop to ask ourselves why the military force of a state is never called to protect the laborer. Surely he is not always to blame. He has as much right to the protection of the military arm of the state as has inanimate property. We may hope that out of this West Virginia struggle will be evolved certain principles that will go a long way to solve similar problems of the future. If they are not dealt with in a fair and impartial spirit and at least an honest attempt made to solve them, some day a strike will assume the magnitude of insurrection or rebellion, accompanied by all the miseries that follow in their wake.

STILL AFTER THE LOBBY.

The committee investigation the charge that undue influence was being used by certain business interests upon members of the United States senate, has been doing some thorough work. It has developed the fact that the sugar interests were maintaining a powerful lobby to prevent the enactment of a free sugar tariff law. It also develops that the sugar refineries have been engaged in lobbying for free sugar. Both sides spent a lot of money, but the lobby against free sugar seems to have been much more active.

Thousands of dollars have been spent in newspaper advertising and circularizing the country in order to create a sentiment favorable to a tariff on sugar. So far as known, no money has been offered or taken by a single senator, yet it has been proven that certain senators have allowed themselves to be placed under obligations to the lobbyists who confess that they have the boodle. Any day may develop startling revelations. In the meantime the bomb thrown into the "insidious" lobby by President Wilson is still echoing.

The last Farmers' Auction sale was in many respects a great success but the farmers were conspicuous by their absence. However, those who came had a good day of it, and those who had anything to sell received the market price. We hear no complaints from either buyer or seller, both appearing to be satisfied.

Floyd King, in withdrawing from the race for the attorney generalship, gives as his reasons for his action that factional lines had been drawn and he did not wish to be involved in the bitter campaign that would follow. He accuses John G. Pollard of being an avowed anti-machine candidate because certain newspapers have so declared. If Mr. Pollard cannot be elected upon his merits he should not be elected at all. We do not believe that he has authorized the publications referred to, but that he is submitting his claim to the Virginia people solely upon his merits.

The town is entering upon the summer season, the season of fevers and ailments of a similar nature. Reports from other sections of the state indicate that the proportion of typhoid cases is larger than last year. Owing to the mild winter, this may be expected. If Williamsburg is to maintain its fine record of last year, when not a single case of typhoid developed here, the people must observe the rules of sanitation to the letter. The health department is keeping a close tab upon the yards of the citizens who should lend it every assistance. Take no risks about your premises, but see that they are clean. Keep the cow and horse stables as clean as your back yard. Do not allow decaying matter of any kind to remain on your place. Use lime freely and keep out the house fly. Swat him, buy window screens and eat no food over which flies have crawled. Let us abolish typhoid forever in Williamsburg.

William K. Doty, who has been attending the William and Mary finals, left Tuesday morning for Sherwood Forest to be the guest of Judge and Mrs. D. G. Tyler.

EARTH ROADS HOW TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN

(Continued from page 1)

3 feet apart with the smooth faces upright. They are then fastened together with braces set in holes bored through the log. A pair of horses may be used to drag the road and are hitched to a chain fastened to the front half of the log. The road drag should move forward so that it slants across the road in such a way that a small amount of earth will slide past the smooth face of the log toward the center of the road, thus forming the crown. The edges of the logs will smooth out the ruts. The best way to drag is to begin at the side ditch and go up one side of the road, and then down the other. In the next trip the drag should be started a little nearer the center and the last trip over the road the drag may work close to the center itself. Small ridges of earth will be thrown in the horse track and smeared by the round side of the log smoothly over the road. The smearing of the earth by the drag is called "pud-

dling" and it tends to make the surface of the road smooth and watertight after the sun comes out. The road is always dragged after it has rained and not when it is dry. A good, strong pair of horses with a well-built drag can drag about 3 or 4 miles of road in a day, and it is the best way to maintain good roads. In every county some farmer along 4 miles of road should own a drag and drag the road when it rains. He would always find the road in good condition when he goes to market.

Owing to the fact that many rural schools were closed at the time when the prize maintenance essay was announced by Director Logan Waller Page of the Office of Public Roads, it has been decided to extend the limit for receiving the essays to October 15, 1913. In addition to the gold medal given as first prize, two silver medals will be given as second and third prizes. If a child who has submitted one essay previous to the issue of this notice should care to try again, he is at liberty to do so, but he must be a pupil of a rural school. There is some misunderstanding in regard to the subject of the essay. The idea is to set the children to thinking how to better their earth roads with the material they have at hand.

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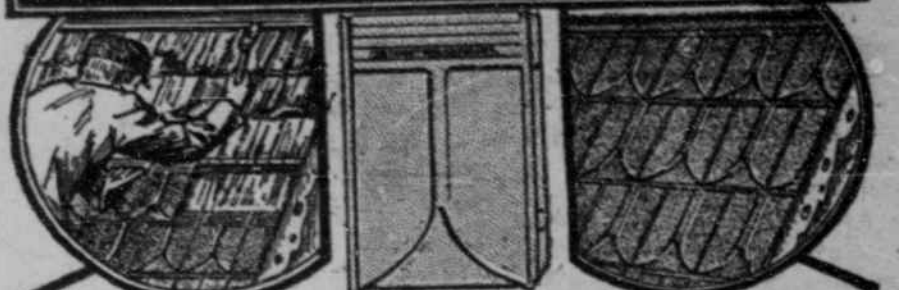
Prof. G. O. Ferguson will spend the summer doing special work in psychology at Columbia University.

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